

***Amendments to the Specification***

At page 1, line 1, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation application of prior U.S. patent application No. 10/166,770, filed June 12, 2002, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application No. 09/644,568, filed August 24, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,425,244.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3, as follows:

According to the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pump unit that includes at least one hydraulic pump with inlet and outlet ports formed therein, a pump case for accommodating the at least one hydraulic pump, the pump case having an opening through which the at least one hydraulic pump is insertable into the pump case, and a lid (also referred to herein as a center section) connected to the pump case in such a manner as to close the opening of the pump case. The center section forms a pair of inlet/outlet passages having first ends respectively communicating with the inlet and outlet ports of the at least one hydraulic pump and second ends opening to the outside of the center section through a pump case abutting surface of the center section, and a first charging passage having a first end through which working hydraulic fluid is fed into the center section and a second end opening to the outside of the center section through the pump case abutting surface of the center section. At least one of the pump case and the center section forms a communication passage for communication between the second ends of the pair of inlet/outlet passages and the second end of the first charging passage. A first hydraulic fluid feeding valve is also provided in the pump unit for allowing hydraulic fluid to flow from the first charging passage to the pair of inlet/outlet passages while preventing the reverse flow. The first hydraulic fluid feeding valve is installable

though the pump case abutting surface of the center section or a center section abutting surface of the pump case.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 16, as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the pump unit 100 includes a first hydraulic pump 110a, a second hydraulic pump 110b, a pump case 120 that accommodates the first and second hydraulic pumps 110a and 110b and has an opening 121c through which the hydraulic pumps are inserted into the pump case 120, and a lid or center section 130 connected to the pump case so as to close the opening of the pump case.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

The present invention provides a pump unit ~~that includes~~ including at least one hydraulic pump with inlet and outlet ports ~~formed therein~~, a pump case for accommodating the ~~at least one~~ hydraulic pump, the pump case having an opening through which the ~~at least one~~ hydraulic pump is insertable ~~into the pump case~~, and a lid, called a center section, ~~connected to the pump case in such a manner as to close the opening of~~ closing the pump case. The center section forms a pair of inlet/outlet passages ~~having first ends respectively~~ communicating an end with the inlet and outlet ports of the ~~at least one~~ hydraulic pump and ~~second ends~~ an end opening ~~to the outside of the center section~~ through a pump case abutting surface of the center section, and a first charging passage ~~having a first end through which working~~ by which hydraulic fluid is

~~fed into the center section and a second end opening to the outside of the center section through the pump case abutting surface of the center section. At least one of the pump case and the center section forms a communication passage for communication between the second ends of~~ communicates the first charging passage with ~~the pair of inlet/outlet passages and the second end of the first charging passage. A~~ via a first hydraulic fluid feeding valve is also ~~provided in the pump unit for allowing hydraulic fluid to flow from the first charging passage to the pair of inlet/outlet passages while preventing the reverse flow into said first charging passage. The first hydraulic fluid feeding valve is installable through the pump case abutting surface of the center section or a center section abutting surface of the pump case.~~